THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 26th April 1948.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 5-30 p.m., Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Audit of temple accounts in the Andhra area.

* 81 *Q.*—SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many auditors have been appointed to audit the accounts of the temples of every district in the Andhra area; and

(*b*) whether the Government have considered the desirability of appointing one auditor for every district?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) Nine auditors have been appointed to audit the accounts of the temples in the entire Andhra area. One auditor for each of the districts of Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Nellore; two auditors for Guntur; one auditor for Cuddapah, Chittoor and Kurnool and one auditor for Bellary and Anantapur.

" (*b*) No."

Inclusion of groundnut and sugarcane in the list of food crops.

* 82 *Q.*—SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware, the groundnut and sugarcane are not included in the list of foodcrops that are required to be cultivated under the accelerated scheme of sinking new wells, issued by the Revenue Department in 1946;

(*b*) whether he has mentioned groundnut and jaggery as two important items of substitute food in his reply to the Budget debate in the floor of the Council on 6—3—1948; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to set right the anomaly?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Food crops for purposes of the well subsidy schemes include not only paddy but also millets, pulses, vegetables including chillies, greens and fruit trees. Sugarcane is not treated as a food crop. Groundnut was not considered to be a food crop for the purpose of concessions under the well subsidy schemes. The Government have recently approved the proposal of the Board of Revenue that for purposes of the concessions under the well

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subsidy schemes, groundnut may be permitted to be raised as a mixed crop subject to the following conditions :—

(i) one unmixed crop of paddy or irrigated ragi or other millet in heavy demand in the area, should be compulsorily raised per fasli,

(ii) groundnut may be optionally permitted to be raised as a second crop, mixed with any suitable millet, and

(iii) the raising of groundnut alone as a crop under the wells should be totally banned.

As this Province is surplus in jaggery and groundnuts, the Government do not consider it necessary that the benefit of these schemes should be extended to the cultivation of sugarcane and of groundnuts unmixed with millets.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) This does not arise in view of the answer given to clause (*a*) above."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether these two commodities have been recognized as food crops? Since this Province is a deficit Province, will the Government consider the desirability of including them also in food crops to be grown under the accelerated scheme? These commodities may be in surplus but the Province as a whole, is deficit in the matter of food."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have already answered this question. The question was considered by this Government, and as a result of the consideration given to it, a modified plan for groundnuts and millets has been permitted in all those areas to be cultivated under the well subsidy scheme. The point at issue is this. These wells have been constructed as part of the Grow More Food Scheme, and their first essential requirement is that foodstuffs should be grown. Groundnut or sugarcane is not purely a food crop, they do not come under the Grow More Food Scheme. After the question of raising groundnut was raised in the Council, Government thought over the matter, and they have now sanctioned a mixed scheme, i.e., the raising of groundnut along with millets, but not groundnut alone to the exclusion of millets."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, whether sweet potatoes and onions, which are better foodstuffs than chillies, will also be included in the list? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No, Sir. It cannot be done. It is the considered opinion of the Government that the well subsidy scheme must be entirely devoted for Grow More Food Scheme. It is not a question of which particular food is more valuable than others. It must be a food that is used by the large bulk of the population in that area. We

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cannot by any stretch of imagination argue that onion is a food crop, because it is not used as food but only as a condiment."

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I mean sweet potatoes, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Exactly so, Sir. Sweet potatoes also are not food products like millets or any other grain which is consumed by the population. It may be a famine food or it may be a substitute food. But it cannot be said that it is ordinary food raised in that area."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Does it not come under vegetables, Sir?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It may be classified under any head the hon. Member likes. We shall consider this when the question is raised whether we should include it under vegetables or not."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Sir, are not sweet potatoes included in the list?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sweet potatoes are considered as substitute foodstuff particularly in view of the fact that there was an impending deficit of foodstuffs in the Province and when Government actually encouraged the growth of sweet potatoes. We even gave bounties for raising sweet potatoes. This question stands on a separate footing altogether from raising crops under the well subsidy scheme."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Have not Government promised to give bonus to people if they raised sweet potatoes in the off-season? If it is so, why not the promise of bonus be kept up?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The question put relates to wells dug under the Grow More Food Scheme, for which subsidies have been given. All the other issues do not arise at all. The Government are still prepared to stand by their original commitment of giving Rs. 15 per acre to people who raise sweet potatoes during off-season."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government aware that this question of giving bonus has not been properly done and that it is being mismanaged?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" This must form a separate question. (Sri K. Manathunainatha Desigar rose in his seat.) I think Government have restricted this Grow More Food Scheme only to grain crops (cereals) and not to other crops. I think the Hon. Minister may say so." (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have already said so, Sir."

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SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" What about chillies, Sir? They are classified as vegetables."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I would rather say, Sir, that chillies contain one vitamin, and that is vitamin ' C ', which is not contained in any other vegetable."

District Panchayat Officers.

* 83 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to place on the table—

(*a*) a list of names of those appointed as District Panchayat Officers as from 1st May 1946, their qualifications, their caste or community and the districts to which they belong ; and also the dates of their appointments; and

(*b*) a list of names of those appointed as Commissioners of Municipalities in the Province, with dates, their qualifications, their caste or community and the district to which they belong as from 1st May 1946 ?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Local Administration) :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Two statements [a] showing the necessary particulars are placed on the table of the House."

Issue price of salt.

* 84 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the present issue price of salt is in the fish-curing yards of the West Coast and the East Coast ;

(*b*) whether the present rate is an enhanced rate and, if so, when the rate was enhanced ;

(*c*) whether the Government are aware that the issue price of salt remained the same from 1924 to 1945 ;

(*d*) (1) what the reasons are for the enhancement in 1945 and (2) a further enhancement in 1947 and (3) that too only on the West Coast ;

(*e*) how does the market price of salt compare with the issue price in the fish-curing yards ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the fish-curing yards on the West Coast have been working at a profit since their inception ;

(*g*) whether the Government consider the curing and sale of fish as a part of the " Grow More Food " Campaign ?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Rural Development) :—" (*a*) The issue price of salt in the fish-curing yards : In West Coast is Rs. 2–8–0 per maund and in East Coast is Rs. 1–14–0 per maund.

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[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 374–375 infra.